

# Marinas and Boaters

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## ***Puget Sound Management Plan Goal***

- Reduce and ultimately eliminate harm from wastes generated by recreational boating activities.

## **Strategies for Achieving Goal**

- Coordinate implementation of the program by state agencies and local governments.
- Simultaneously address the needs for waste disposal facilities and processes, education for appropriate constituencies, financial and technical assistance, and regulation and enforcement of boating-related activities that affect water quality
- Evaluate changes in both behavior and water quality that result from the above strategies, and evaluate the need for more extreme protective measures (no-discharge and no-anchorage areas).

## **Background and Trends**

Boating is a popular pastime in Puget Sound. Puget Sounders own more than 165,000 powerboats, 21,500 sailboats, 45,000 canoes and kayaks, and numerous sailboards, inflatable boats and other personal watercraft (Amjoun 1997). Public and private marinas provide moorage for thousands of boats. As a group, boaters can noticeably affect water quality. Untreated sewage pumped overboard contains bacteria and viruses that can close shellfish beds and beaches and make people who eat contaminated shellfish sick. A small amount of oil can contaminate many gallons of water. Paint scrapings and many boat solvents and cleaners are toxic to fish and wildlife.

The State Parks and Recreation Commission provides grants for sewage-disposal pumpouts and other waste-disposal facilities at marinas and other facilities. The Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation provides grants to improve boater access. The Commission provides education on boat-waste issues. Much of this activity is enhanced through partnerships with trade associations and environmental groups.

Since 1994, 58 new pumpout stations have been installed in the Puget Sound basin under the Clean Vessel Act Pumpout Grants Program, and 18 more are under contract to be installed. Agencies, trade associations, environmental groups and others participate in the annual National Boating Campaign, a national effort to promote clean boating practices.

## **Highlights of 2001-2003 Actions**

- The State Parks and Recreation Commission will promote and coordinate the installation of waste-disposal facilities at all public and private marinas launch ramps and other boating facilities.
- State Parks—in cooperation with other agencies, environmental groups, local governments and boating organizations—will provide educational materials to boaters on water quality and ways to prevent pollution.

## **2001-2003 Budget for State Actions**

Total Provided Funding	\$189,000
Total Other Funding	\$525,000

		See page 9 for key.					
STATE AGENCY ACTIONS	OUTCOMES	Pri-ori-ty	Non-point	Sal-mon	Budget Code	PS Plan Element	Action ID
<b>DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY</b>							
Administer the general boatyard National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. Provide general information related to the permit, conduct periodic inspections and issue enforcement actions when appropriate.	The general boatyard permit will be effectively managed. Water quality degradation due to boatyard activities such as bottom scraping, pressure hosing and painting, will be reduced.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	DOE-02	MB-0	200
<b>STATE PARKS &amp; RECREATION COMMISSION</b>							
Promote, coordinate and administer the Federal Clean Vessel Act Boater Sewage Pumpout funding program which places boater sewage disposal equipment at public and private marinas, launch ramps and other boater destination or moorage locations.	Up to 26 facilities for the removal of boater sewage from the water will be funded statewide. The amount of sewage collected will increase as additional facilities become available and as more boaters receive educational materials.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PRC-01	MB-5	201
In cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington Departments of Health, Ecology, Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife, the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation, the Puget Soundkeeper Alliance, county and city natural resource and health agencies, Washington Water Weeks, Washington Sea Grant, the Puget Sound Action Team and any other interested boaters organizations, will continue to provide educational materials to assist recreational boaters with understanding water quality issues, pollution prevention and ways that they can help improve water quality in Washington.	Guidebooks, brochures, radio spots, posters, Internet information and other materials that will keep boaters advised of environmental issues and offer solutions to improve water quality. A survey done every other biennium will show that more boaters are aware of environmental issues surrounding their boating enjoyment and are increasing use of clean boating practices.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PRC-02	MB-1	202
In cooperation with the Action Team, Department of Fish and Wildlife and other interested groups, develop and produce specialized information for recreational boaters that describes the relationship between boating and existing and potential aquatic nuisance species.	Materials developed and distributed throughout Puget Sound addressing these concerns will focus on how recreational boaters carry nuisance species and what they can do to alleviate this problem. As awareness of the effects of introducing nuisance species increases, boaters will become more involved in preventive actions.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PRC-02	MB-1	203
<b>PUGET SOUND WATER QUALITY ACTION TEAM</b>							
Convene one joint meeting of the State Agency Marina/Boater Task Force and Marina/Boater Advisory Committee to coordinate efforts, resolve issues and promote clean boating practices.	Efforts to reduce waste from marinas and recreational boating in Puget Sound from will be coordinated and focused. State Parks and Recreation Commission, the departments of Health, Natural Resources and Ecology, and the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation will participate in the joint meeting.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PSAT-04	MB-1	204